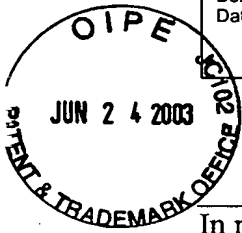


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 147059531 US in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below
Dated: 6-24-03 Signature: Beth J. Cobb
(Beth J. Cobb)

Docket No.: HO-P02054US1

Docket No.: HO-P02054US1
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Charles E. Loomis, et al.

Application No.: 09/826,575

Group Art Unit: 1732

Filed: April 5, 2001

Examiner: M. Cygan

For: TESTING APPARATUS AND METHOD

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT (AND REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
MAILED DECEMBER 24, 2002)**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The present Preliminary Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 24, 2002, and thus, is a *bona fide* attempt to advance the application. Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

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In the Claims

1. An apparatus for testing equipment located in a local environment by presenting a detectable indicator gas therein, said apparatus comprising:

a one-piece, polymeric pump and container portion combination;

a chemical substance stored in said container portion, said substance being reactive with the local environment;

[a] wherein said pump is operable to draw air into said container portion and in contact with said chemical substance to generate a detectable indicator gas, wherein said pump is integrally formed as one piece, and [wherein said pump is] joined seamlessly, with said container portion such that said pump and said container portion are in fluid